

What has Swindon Parish Council said about the RSS?

Your Parish Council has submitted ten consultation responses on the RSS, you may view them here:

<http://www.swindonparish.org.uk/news>

Why has the Council submitted these comments? Aren't they outside the 'rules' for submitting comments?

We know that the Government's official guidelines limit consultation responses to the modifications to the draft RSS. However, there was very little publicity for the initial draft and, consequently, there was little chance for our input. The subsequent Examination in Public was extremely tightly controlled – even our local MPs were turned away.

We want to represent the views of our residents, which were made very clear at the Public Meeting held on 27th August 2008. Consequently, the Council decided it was better to represent your views and oppose the proposals for 5000 houses to the north-west of Cheltenham and the consequent destruction of the Green Belt, even though that meant 'breaking the rules' of the consultation process, which would have limited the Council to making comments on the modifications only.

We hope that residents will understand this approach.

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